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at 518. A test is then made at 520 to determine if the count equals a predefined number (N). The predefined number represents the number of attempts that the link partner should make before there is a downgrade in the set of capabilities advertised by the initiating partner.--

In Table 1 on page 14, replace the paragraph beginning on line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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adv_baset

10BASET advertisement variable – contains information on the 10BASET capability set. In the method of the present invention adv_baset is loaded from registers 5 & 6 of state variable mr_adv_ability as follows, $\text{adv_baset} \leftarrow \text{mr_adv_ability}[5] + \text{mr_adv_ability}[6]$

In the Drawings:

Figure 4 has been amended to specifically show MII Registers 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, and 09.

The MII Registers 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, and 09 are alternately referenced in the specification as filed as MII Registers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, respectively.

In the Abstract:

Replace the Abstract on page 30 with the following Abstract:

--ABSTRACT

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Auto-negotiation with a communication partner includes downgrading a set of advertised communications capabilities, e.g., IEEE 802.3 capabilities, when a link with the communication partners fails to support an advertised communications capability, e.g.,